

MINUTES
Connecticut Advisory Council for Victims of Crime
November 14, 2023
225 Spring Street, Room 4B, Wethersfield, CT

Members in Attendance: Co-Chair Judge Courtney M. Chaplin, Co-Chair Yvette Young, Beth Hamilton, Gail Hardy on behalf of Lisa D'Angelo, Marc Pelka, Jessica Pizzano, Lee Ross, Gerrie Wild,

Members Excused or Absent: Bob Garguilo, Amy Lupoli, Irene Mikol, Susan Omilian, Ebonie Suggs, Deborah Witkin, Andrew Woods

OVS Staff in Attendance: Mary Kozicki, James Morgan, Tina Bouchard

Guest in Attendance: Meghan Scanlon

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Announcements

Co-Chair, Judge Courtney Chaplin, opened the meeting at 2:10 p.m. Council and OVS Staff members introduced themselves.

2. Approval of the September 12, 2023, Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

3. Legislative Updates

Gerrie Wild reported on *Public Act No. 23-106, An Act Strengthening the Protections Against and Response to Domestic Violence*, which includes a GPS program that is expected to be effective statewide as of October 2025. The courts that have been identified to participate in the first phase of the program are Derby, New Haven, and Milford Superior courts with additional courts participating by Spring of 2024.

Gerrie reported on *Public Act No. 23-136, An Act Concerning the Establishment and Duties of the Domestic Violence Criminal Justice Response and Enhancement Advisory Council*.

Several council members discussed potential legislative proposals for the upcoming session.

4. Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) Funding Update

James Morgan reported the Director for the Office for Victims of Crime provided a monthly update on the status of the Federal Crime Victims Fund. The balance in the fund as of October 1, 2023, which is the start of the new federal fiscal year, is \$1.019 billion dollars, which is the lowest fund balance since 2006. The President's FFY 2024 budget request includes an appropriation of \$1.2 billion from the Fund for OVC programs.

5. Discussion on VOCA Funding

Council members discussed issues related to identifying additional sources to fund victim services. Members will continue to discuss the impact of anticipated reduced funding on victim services and options to mitigate these impacts.

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6. New Business

Beth Hamilton reported on the viewing and panel discussion of the film "Victim/Suspect" and the impact on sexual assault victims being charged with false reporting. Discussion included identifying opportunities to improve the criminal justice response and exploration of additional training opportunities.

Jessica Pizzano announced there would be a press conference on November 20, 2023, at the Legislative Office Building to promote Homicide Awareness Month that will run from November 20 - December 20, 2023. There will also be several fundraising events held across the state.

Mary Kozicki reported that OVS will continue to work with OVC TTAC on the topic of Vicarious Trauma and Building Resiliency as a result of the training staff attended in October.

Mary also acknowledged the collaboration with the Psychiatric Security Review Board and the OVS Helpline Advocates to provide support to victims at these hearings.

7. Adjournment

Yvette Young adjourned the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

Tina Bouchard, Recorder